AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A switching node comprising:

   a switching matrix, and

   a controller to control said switching matrix, said controller configured to set up at least
      one group of virtual circuits to respective one or more destinations as a virtual
      circuit bunch,

   The switching node of claim 1 in which wherein the controller is configured to retransmit
      digital data from an assigned virtual circuit identifier (VCI) to an alternate VCI of
      the same or different port going to the same destination when a cell interleaving
      problem occurs.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) In a digital switching network having a plurality of interconnected
nodes, a method of allocating virtual circuits, comprising the step of:

   providing an element for performing the step of establishing a plurality of virtual circuits
      from one node to at least one other node as a virtual circuit bunch in response to a
      single request,

   The method of claim 11, in which said wherein the single request specifies a plurality of
   destinations.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, in which wherein said the single request
also specifies the number of virtual circuits to be established to each destination.

15-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A computer program product, comprising:

   a memory medium; and

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a computer program stored on said memory medium, said computer program comprising instructions fro allocating a virtual circuit to all nodes participating in a multicast using a virtual circuit bunch.

27-29. (Cancelled)

30.   (Original) A method of transferring the computer program product of claim 26, comprising the step of transmitting said instructions from said memory medium to a destination over a communications interface.

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